

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /078 W

-----251112Z 036506 /15

P R 251015Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8473

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L NAIROBI 6496

CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, KE, TC, SY, AG, SU, EG

SUBJ: FOREIGN MINISTER ON KENYA'S RELATIONS WITH MIDDLE EAST

1. DURING MAY 24 CALL ON FOREIGN MINISTER WAIYAKI ON OTHER BUSINESS, I ASKED HIM ABOUT RESULTS OF HIS RECENT TRIP TO UAE, SYRIA AND IRAQ. THIS LED TO FAIRLY WIDE-RANGING DISCUSSION OF KENYAN RELATIONS WITH MIDDLE EAST.

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2. WAIYAKI SAID HE WAS PLEASED WITH RECEPTION IN SYRIA AND UAE, WHERE HE HAD SEEN HEADS OF STATE AND FOREIGN MINISTERS. UAE PRESIDENT SHEIGH ZAYID HAD SHOWN GREAT INTEREST IN KENYA, ASKING WHETHER HE COULD PURCHASE RESIDENCE HERE. IN IRAQ, TOP LEADERSHIP HAD BEEN OUT OF THE COUNTRY, BUT WAIYAKI HAD AGREED TO MEET IRAQI FOREIGN MINISTER AT THE UNGA NEXT AUTUMN. (ALTHOUGH WAIYAKI DID NOT ELABORATE ON OBJECTIVES OF TRIP,

NAIROBI PRESS HAS CARRIED REPORTS OF TRADE DEALS EMERGIN FROM RECENT VISITS BY BUSINESSMEN, AND HAS CREDITED WAIYAKI WITH PAVING WAY FOR FURTHER TRADE EXPANSION. IN THIS CONNECTION, WE NOTE APPOINTMENT LAST WEEK OF PETER KENYATTA, SON OF PRESIDENT KENYATTA, AS NEW ASSISTANT FOREIGN MINISTER; IN PAST YEAR, PETER HAS BEEN HEAVILY INVOLVED IN BUSINESS ACTIVITIES IN MIDDLE EAST).

3. WAIYAKI LEAVES AT THE END OF THIS WEEK FOR FURTHER VISITS TO ARAB WORLD. HE WILL PARTICIPATE IN ANNUAL MINISTERIAL CONSULTATIONS WITH SUDAN AND THEN VISIT CAIRO, WHERE HORN OF AFRICA ISSUES LIKELY TO FIGURE HEAVILY IN DISCUSSIONS WITH EGYPTIANS. HE PLANS TO CONSULT ALSO "FOR THE FIRST TIME" WITH ALGERIA, A COUNTRY WAIYAKI SAYS HE ADMIRES FOR ITS CLEVER LEADERSHIP. CONSULTATIONS WITH ALGERIANS WERE ARRANGED AT URGING OF EGYPT--IT IS NOT CLEAR WHETHER WAIYAKI PLANS TO VISIT ALGIERS OR TO HOLD DISCUSSIONS IN CAIRO.

4. ALTHOUGH WE UNDERSTAND WAIYAKI ORIGINALLY PLANNED TO VISIT SAUDI ARABIA, WHERE KENYA HAS RECENTLY SENT A RESIDENT CHARGE D'AFFAIRES, HE VOLUNTEERED NOTHING TO ME ON RELATIONS WITH THE SAUDIS. IT SEEMS LIKELY THAT KENYA'S EXTENSIVE LINKS WITH ISRAEL HAVE PROVED AN IMPEDIMENT TO CONTACTS WITH SAUDIS AT LEADERSHIP LEVEL, DESPITE COMMON INTERESTS OF BOTH COUNTRIES IN CURBING SOVIET INFLUENCE IN THE HORN.

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